

**Environmental Report
October 2021
Environmental Manager Teresa Sidwell**

ERADICATION

During September our CDL licensed Sr. Environmental Officer Tim Filbeck and Officer Spry used the grappling truck to remove waste illegally dumped at 4 sites on the side of county roads outside the city limits of Bella Vista and Rogers.

It takes two staff members to clean up roadside dump sites with the grappling truck. Training, awareness of surroundings, PPE, and equipment inspections are all important to avoid hazards and to safely operate this heavy piece of equipment.

In addition, we spent several hours with an inmate crew retrieving; a baby car seat, tires, boat dock flotation devices, a propane tank, hot water heater, coolers, buckets, and several bags of loose debris from a wet weather creek on Gooseberry Road outside of the city of Bentonville. An inmate crew also assisted with cleaning up the beach area of Frisco Springs Road.



Grant Funds for Failing Septic Systems - The Arkansas Natural Resource Commission has granted \$1 million to Ozarks Water Watch for septic system remediation in the Beaver Reservoir Watershed. A Lowell family with a 47-year-old failing septic system were experiencing backups inside their home as well as surfacing effluent in their backyard. This family received grant funds, so the \$13,000 septic system cost the family less than \$1,500. Learn more about this program by visiting <https://ozarkswaterwatch.org/arseptic/>.

Pick Up Where You Play

In October we joined forces with Wonderful Waterways and hosted two litter cleanup events at the Hwy 12 bridge and the Prairie Creek Recreation Area & Campground. Our staff took time out of their weekend to host three events this year. 54 volunteers helped us remove 31 large bags of litter, a large piece of boat dock foam, lumber and a camp stove from the shores of Beaver Lake. We are grateful to our sponsors; McKee Foods, Keep Arkansas Beautiful and the Beaver Water District.



Staff Learning & Development – Environmental law enforcement officers must be prepared for anything and capable of making sound decisions. To effectively serve the public, our officers continue to learn and develop their skills. Sr. Officer Filbeck obtained 1 hour of drone training and all staff received self-defense training at the firearms range. Officer Spry received 2 hours of ACIC Security online training.



EDUCATION

Our division helps to make our county a safe and healthy place to live by educating adults and children about the importance of proper waste disposal. In October our staff educated 380 kindergarteners on the importance of recycling at Mary Mae, Central Park, and Elm Tree elementary schools in Bentonville.

Our “You Can be an Environmental Hero” educational program engages students with a “Recycle Dice Game, story time and sing along. We use simple concepts for kindergarteners to explain recycling and hand out stickers and coloring pages.

It was a lot to squeeze into our busy schedule but we were happy to have the opportunity to educate our next generation of environmental heroes.



Costumes, Candy and Cops Carnival

We participated in the Benton County Sheriff's Office community carnival on the Friday night before Halloween. We handed out candy to the kids and information about our division to the adults. We are grateful that Sam's Club in Springdale donated \$350 worth of candy for trick-or-treaters that didn't stop coming until after 11:00 p.m. that night!



The County Teaching Garden - We use the rain garden to educate about alternative stormwater management using native plants. The garden had an abundance of blooms in October. The center photo below shows the garden during a heavy rain event. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff from the parking lot. Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from runoff. A rain garden holds water only 12-48 hours after a rain event and do not promote breeding of mosquitoes.

Stop by for a visit at the Benton County Road Department located on 14th Street in Bentonville. We are looking for a volunteer group to care for our native plant rain garden. This garden was installed in 2012 with a grant from the Illinois River Watershed Alliance. Call us at 479-271-1083 if you are interested in this community service project.



The Special Waste Drop-off is provided by Benton County, the Cities and the Benton County Solid Waste District for recycling and disposal of large household items and household hazardous waste. Limited household items accepted free or for low cost.

2021 Special Waste Drop-off Bulky Waste Disposal								
	HAULS	TONS	HAULS	TONS	HAULS	TONS	TOTAL	TOTAL
	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	ROGERS	ROGERS	SILLOAM	SILLOAM	HAULS	TONS
OCT	7	24.66	9	20.41	0	-	16	45.07
YTD	144	310.25	122	266.73	5	5.81	271	582.79

2021 COUNTY EXPENSES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL LINE ITEM 3063										
2021 County Expenses	Bulky Waste Centerton	Bulky Waste Rogers	Bulky Waste Siloam Springs	Household Hazardous Waste*	Advertising	In-house recycling	Roadside Cleanups	Nuisance Cases	Operations Costs	TOTALS
OCTOBER	\$ 4,492.23	\$ 4,815.58	\$ 106.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66.98	\$ -	\$ 10,627.52	\$ 20,109.25
SPENT Y-T-D	\$ 49,869.36	\$ 43,995.05	\$ 2,904.68	\$ -	\$ 106.40	\$ 363.99	\$ 193.95	\$ 14,548.50	\$ 42,510.08	\$ 154,492.01

Benton County 2021 Special Waste Drop-Off Collections							
# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	# MATTRESSES	HHW
13828	736	978	4228	15372	11959	345	2595

ENFORCEMENT

We have seen a substantial increase in reports of illegal dumping over the last couple of years. Each case requires at least one visit and as many as twelve site visits over the course of a year. In October we received 26 new reports of illegal waste disposal. Currently, we have 17 cases in the court system. Many properties in Benton County that have environmental violations took years to get that way. We strive to educate violators on proper waste disposal and give them time to rectify the problem as long as they work to make significant improvement.

This case was outside the city limits of Siloam Springs. There was about a 1-acre total space used for illegal burning. The violator was unaware of the laws pertaining to burning solid waste. The violator was appreciative of our agency working with him and also educating him about the law. The violator hauled over 21,000 pounds of solid waste from the incident location to the transfer station for proper disposal. He produced multiple receipts costing him more than \$480.00.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



This property is outside the city limits of Bentonville. We were notified by the fire department about a large tire fire at this location. During our investigation, we discovered furniture, appliances and other solid waste violations. There was a pig pin constructed out of old tires. The initial background check of the property found owner and known tenants with criminal records so our division conducted an initial inspection with all three officers involved. The owner and tenants were extremely cooperative and complied right away and within 60 days the property was brought into compliance. The pig pin remained; however, the owner filled all the tires with dirt to prevent water accumulation and it also gave stability to the walls.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



This case was outside the city limits of Bella Vista. The report came in from the property owner who informed us of their tenants who had furniture, household trash, electronics, and various other items all over the front and back yard. I spoke with the mother of the tenant and gave a packet with information on where they could take the items they wanted to discard. When I followed up on the property on my next visit the property was completely cleaned and back into compliance.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENSES and actions initiated in October.

OFFENSE TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	0
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	1
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	1
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	1
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	2
Dumped by others (electronics)	1
Dumped by others (furniture)	3
Dumped by others (general waste)	1
Dumped by others (household garbage)	2
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	0
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	0
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	1
Dumped by self (construction debris)	1
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	0
Dumped by self (general waste)	6
Dumped by self (household garbage)	0
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	0
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	0
Camera Installation	3
Extra Patrol	5
Littering	0
Sign installation	0
Stagnant Water	0

ACTIONS TAKEN THIS MONTH	QTY
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	0
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	2
WARRANTS ISSUED	0
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	26
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES OPENED YTD	318

What does the Environmental Division Investigate?

Environmental Officers are limited to enforcement of solid waste violations in unincorporated Benton County and do not regulate inside any city limits.

We DO NOT investigate septic issues, structure fires, agricultural waste, dead animals such as pets or wild animals, or the illegal disposal of hazardous material.

Our division responds to violations of solid waste regulations that may include;

1. Construction or operation of a solid waste disposal facility or disposal site.
2. Dumping of solid waste upon property owned by another person.
3. Dumping of solid waste on the side of public roads or public property.
4. Solid waste on one's own property that can potentially create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Dumping of solid waste into a waterway.
6. Burning of solid waste.
7. Burying of solid waste.

